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Our Missions.

IT may be appropriately said that this was a Missionary Assembly, not only in that for the first time in the history of the Canadian church the Moderator is an honored missionary and chosen for that reason, but that in the docket of business, missions overshadowed everything else. It is true that there was animated discussion on other topics of considerable importance, but missions went to the heart of the Assembly. Our own great Home Mission field, and the greater and more urgent continents of darkness and death, no less real in these days of rapid transportation and travel, commanded attention. It is high time that attention was intensified an hundred fold. Sixty generations of unevangelized heathen have gone into a Christless eternity since our Lord established and commissioned His church to preach the gospel to every creature. To-day the responsibility is greater than ever before, because of our greater facilities. How appalling is this in the light of our opportunities and the world's infinite need!

The missionary attitude is the normal condition of every Christian. All cannot go but every face should be turned thitherward, and enquiring "Watchman, what of the night?" David was not permitted to build the temple but his heart was set upon it, he earnestly longed for the privilege, and that desire induced him to lay up material and bequeath the solemn trust to his son. If our congregations were animated with the spirit of David, their sons and daughters would execute their plans, and the true glory of the church would appear. "Churches have always been" says a modern

writer, "tempted to pique themselves in their rich foundations and institutions, on producing champions of the faith, able writers, eloquent preachers, on their aesthetic services, and not on that very thing for which the church exists, the cleansing of the morals of the people and their elevation to a truly spiritual and godly life. It is the individuals who give character to our churches." That is true. No ministry, no congregational life is in line with the Master's teaching and spirit that aims not at the world's redemption, and it need not be said that without His Spirit there will be little blessedness in life or service.

In this work our colleges must necessarily play an important part. If young men came up to our college hall without missionary enthusiasm, none should ever leave them in that condition. Any young men whose hearts have not been inflamed with an interest in mission work are likely to be time servers, an incubus on the church. Let the ardent spirits of the youth of our colleges but come into contact with the thrilling missionary literature of our day and they will be kindled.

Think of the heroic lives, the conquests for Christ under conditions the most unfavorable, the elevation, the true nobility of character induced by the Gospel message amongst the lowest of the race, surely he is too unsusceptible to be of any account in the ministry of Jesus Christ who can resist such miracles of grace. Certainly under such influences very many would say "Here am I send me," and others who would be compelled, sorrowfully, to stay at home, would still be partners in the work. Until recently, our colleges were conducted on the assumption that all the students were to remain in the home-land; but a change is coming over the spirit of our institutions. Witness the immense gathering of students in Detroit last spring, representing 294 institutions of learning, as an evidence of the tendency of the times, yet in few of our colleges has the curriculum of study been modified so as to meet the spirit of the times. That is a question that must sooner or later engage our educational authorities. There is still another phase of the college problem that needs to be considered. Hosts of young men and women are being impelled towards the mission field, whose early training does not enable them to undertake a regular college course, circumstances make that impossible, and no other provision is made, with the result that in many quarters new and irresponsible institutions are springing up, to supply as far as possible that lack. No one is disposed to dispute the importance of a high standard of education, where it is possible to attain it, but the fact remains that very many who have not enjoyed a high degree of culture, have the other and better gift, a burning zeal for the salvation of souls, and have been and are used of God for the ingathering of many. We confidently believe